

§ 1478.4

(6) For all other crops, the smallest unit of measure that lends itself to the greatest level of accuracy with minimal use of fractions, as determined by the State committee.

United States means all 50 States of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam.

USDA means United States Department of Agriculture.

Value loss crop will have the meaning assigned in part 1437 of this chapter.

Verifiable production records means evidence that is used to substantiate the amount of production reported and that can be verified by CCC through an independent source.

§ 1478.4 Producer eligibility.

(a) Producers in the United States will be eligible to receive disaster benefits under this part only if they have suffered 1999 crop losses of eligible crops as a result of a disaster as further specified in this part.

(b) Payments may be made for losses suffered by an eligible producer who is now deceased or is a dissolved entity if a representative who currently has authority to enter into a contract for the producer signs the application for payment. Proof of authority to sign for the deceased producer or dissolved entity must be provided. If a producer is now a dissolved general partnership or joint venture, all members of the general partnership or joint venture at the time of dissolution or their duly authorized representatives must sign the application for payment.

(c) As a condition to receive benefits under this part, a producer must have been in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions of 7 CFR part 12, for the 1999 crop year and must not otherwise be barred from receiving benefits under part 12 or any other provision of law.

(d) Except as otherwise required by law, the provisions of paragraph (c) of this section shall not apply to producers receiving benefits under this part for value loss crops unless otherwise determined by the Deputy Administrator.

7 CFR Ch. XIV (1-1-03 Edition)

§ 1478.5 Time for filing application.

Applications for benefits under the 1999 Crop Disaster Program must be filed before the close of business on February 25, 2000, or such other date that may be announced by the Deputy Administrator, in the county FSA office serving the county where the producer's farm is located for administrative purposes.

§ 1478.6 Limitations on payments and other benefits.

(a) A producer may receive disaster benefits under this part on 1999 crop year losses only.

(b) Payments will not be made under this part for grazing losses. Further, the Deputy Administrator may divide and classify crops based on loss susceptibility, yield, and other factors.

(c) No person shall receive more than a total of \$80,000 in disaster benefits under this part.

(d) No person shall receive disaster benefits under this part in an amount that exceeds the value of the expected production for the relevant period as determined by CCC.

(e) A person who has a gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million for the 1998 tax year shall not be eligible to receive disaster benefits under this part. Gross revenue includes the total income and total gross receipts of the person, before any reductions. Gross revenue shall not be adjusted, amended, discounted, netted or modified for any reason. No deductions for costs, expenses or pass-through funds will be deducted from any calculation of gross revenue. For purposes of making this determination, gross revenue means the total gross receipts received from farming, ranching and forestry operations if the person receives more than 50 percent of such person's gross income from farming or ranching; or the total gross receipts received from all sources if the person receives 50 percent or less of such person's gross receipts from farming, ranching and forestry.

(f) In the event the total amount of applications for disaster benefits under this part exceeds the available funds,

payments shall be reduced by a uniform national percentage. Such reductions shall be applied before any determination of limits on compensation due to multiple USDA benefits and after the imposition of applicable payment limitation and gross revenues caps. Available funds will not include funds made available under other parts for honey loans, mohair loans, and payments to livestock producers.

§ 1478.7 Requirement to purchase crop insurance.

(a) Any producer who elected not to purchase crop insurance on a crop in 1999 for which the producer receives crop loss assistance under this part must purchase crop insurance on that crop for the 2000 and 2001 crop years.

(b) If, at the time the producer is advised that he or she is eligible for crop loss assistance under this part, and the sales closing date for the 2000 crop year has passed for any crop for which crop insurance is required as specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the producer must purchase crop insurance for the 2001 crop year for any such crop.

(c) If any producer fails to purchase crop insurance as required in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the producer will be required to refund the benefits received or pay a lesser amount as may be specified by the Deputy Administrator.

§ 1478.8 Miscellaneous provisions.

(a) Disaster benefits under this part are not subject to administrative offset under § 1403.8 of this chapter except as determined appropriate by the Deputy Administrator who may, among other offsets, deduct from the benefits accrued any reductions appropriate for a producer's failure to obtain crop insurance as required in connection with benefits for crop losses in prior years.

(b) A person shall be ineligible to receive disaster assistance under this part if it is determined by the State or county committee or an official of FSA that such person has:

(1) Adopted any scheme or other device that tends to defeat the purpose of a program operated under this part;

(2) Made any fraudulent representation with respect to such program; or

(3) Misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination.

(c) In the event there is a failure to comply with any term, requirement, or condition for payment or assistance arising under this part, and if any refund of a payment to CCC shall otherwise become due in connection with this part, all payments made in regard to such matter shall be refunded to CCC, together with interest as determined in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section and late-payment charges as provided for in part 1403 of this chapter.

(d) Producers shall be required to pay interest on any refund required of the producer receiving assistance or a payment if CCC determines that payments or other assistance were provided to the producer and the producer was not eligible for such assistance. The interest rate shall be one percent greater than the rate of interest that the United States Treasury charges CCC for funds, as of the date of payment. Interest that is determined to be due CCC shall accrue from the date such benefits were made available by CCC to the date repayment is completed. CCC may waive the accrual of interest if CCC determines that the cause of the erroneous determination was not due to any error by the producer.

(e) All persons with a financial interest in the operation receiving benefits under this part shall be jointly and severally liable for any refund, including related charges, which is determined to be due CCC for any reason under this part.

(f) In the event that any request for assistance or payment under this part was established as result of erroneous information or a miscalculation, the assistance or payment shall be recalculated and any excess refunded with applicable interest.

(g) The liability of any person for any penalty under this part or for any refund to CCC or related charge arising in connection therewith shall be in addition to any other liability of such person under any civil or criminal fraud statute or any other provision of law including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, 371, 641, 651, 1001 and 1014; 15 U.S.C. 714m; and 31 U.S.C. 3729.